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A NEW SPECIES OF VALERIANA FROM BRAZIL

Frederick G. Meyer

Valeriana glechomifolia sp. nov. Herba perennis omnino puberula, longe repens; caulis tenuis foliosus; folia opposita, laminis suborbicularibus vel orbiculari-reniformibus, crenato-dentatis, petiolis 0.6–1.4 cm. longis; inflorescentia erecta, 4–10 cm. longa; flores hermaphroditi; corolla infundibuliformis 2–2.5 mm. longa; achaenia oblonga vel elliptica aliquantulum ampulliformia ubique puberulenta; calycis limbus brevicupuliformis plus minusve dentatus.

Uniformly puberulent long-creeping perennial, rooting at the nodes; stems slender, terete, about 1 mm. in diameter, leafy, the internodes 1–2.5 cm. long; leaves opposite, erect or ascending, the blades suborbicular to orbicular-reniform, 0.6–1.5 cm. wide, sometimes truncate at the base, uniformly crenate-dentate, the petioles 0.6–1.4 cm. long; inflorescence an aggregate or compound dichasium, erect, 4–10 cm. long, arising on a slender stalk from leaf axils along the creeping stems, with 1–3 pairs of leaves, the terminal dichotomies about 1–3 cm. wide in anthesis, later more diffuse, the bracts 1–3 mm. long, more or less spathulate, the flowers hermaphroditic; corolla infundibuliform, 2–2.5 mm. long, glabrous, the tube gibbous, the lobes 5, spreading, slightly unequal; stamens 3, exserted, 2-lobed; style 3-lobed; achenes oblong to elliptic, about 1.5 mm. long, somewhat ampulliform, more or less oblique, uniformly puberulent; calyx-limb short-cupuliform, more or less dentate.

Specimens examined. Brazil. Santa Catarina, Mun. Bom Retiro: Campo between Fazenda Campo dos Padres and Fazenda Santo Antonio, Campo dos Padres, alt. 1400–1650 m., November 21, 1956, *L. B. Smith* & *R. Klein 7800* (type US); same locality, January 24, 1957. *L. B. Smith* & *R. Reitz 10383*.

The combination of creeping habit and leaves that resemble those of *Glechoma hederacea* quickly distinguishes *V. glechomifolia* from all other New World valerianas. The fruit of *V. glechomifolia* allies it with other Brazilian valerianas with a coronate calyx-limb in the group with *V. salicariifolia, V. chamaedryfolia, V. foliosa,* and *V. eichleriana,* but the uniformly puberulent and more or less oblique achenes of *V. glechomifolia*

FIG. 1. *Valeriana glechomifolia*: A, habit, × ¾; B, inflorescence and single leaf, × 3; C, fruit, flower, and stamens, × 10, *Smith & Klein 7800*.

differ from the uniformly glabrous and regular achenes of the aforementioned Brazilian species.

Students of South American *Valeriana* reserved the segregate genus *Phyllactis* for species with coronate calyx. My own studies previously on North American species and now on those of South America indicate that single character differences, especially floral differences, are insufficient in differentiating segregate genera. Indeed, the specialized calyx, either coronate or pappus-like, and more especially the sculpturing of the cypselate achene combine with vegetative characters in the differentiation of species of South American *Valeriana*.

This interesting discovery by Lyman B. Smith of the Smithsonian Insti-

tution, Washington, D.C., is one of a long series of new plants discovered on Dr. Smith's fruitful collecting trip to Santa Catarina in 1956–57.

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STUDIES IN WESTERN VIOLETS, IX. MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES IN THE SECTIONS NOMIMIUM AND CHAMAEMELANIUM

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This paper treats four taxa of *Viola* in the sections *Nomimium* and *Chamaemelanium*—a newly described species, a change of status from species to subspecies for a second taxon, observations confirming the specific status of a third taxon, and a newly described subspecies. In addition to my own specimens at the North Coast Herbarium, I have cited specimens from the United States National Herbarium, the New York Botanical Garden, the California Academy of Sciences, and the University of California Herbarium; to the curators of these latter herbaria I express my appreciation.

Viola Aliceae sp. nov. Herba exigua omnino puberulenta cauli supraterrano brevissimo suppressoque et rosella basali foliorum ac floribus uno duobusque folias parum excedentibus instructa cauli subterreno gracili bracteas squamas simulantes gerente, tota ex radice fusiformi longitudine variabili (ut apud specimina typica videtur) crescens; folia oblongo-ovata vel elliptica obscure undulato-dentata decurrentia 2 vel 3 cm. longa dimidio lata petiolis laminas longitudine aequantibus; stipulae inconspicuae lanceolatae marginis laceratis; flores caesii longitudine 1 cm. parum excedentes petalis angustis eis lateralibus aliquantulo barbatis; stigma ut id *Violae aduncae* ebarbatum; et capsula et semina hucusque ignoti.

A small plant, 5 to 11 cm. high, caulescent but the aerial stem undeveloped, bearing a rosette of leaves and one or two flowers slightly above the leaves; finely puberulent throughout; subterranean stem slender with scale-like bracts; taproot variable in length (as in type sheet); leaves long-ovate to elliptic, obscurely undulate-dentate, decurrent, 2 to 3 cm. long and half as wide, on petioles about as long; stipules inconspicuous, lanceolate with lacerate margins; flowers lavender, slightly more than 1 cm. long; petals narrow, the lateral slightly bearded; stigma like that of *Viola adunca* but without beards; capsule and seeds unknown. Figs. 1, 2.

Type. Mexico. Near kilometer 34 post on Mexico City–Cuernavaca highway, altitude 9000 feet, *A. Y.* and *J. E. Wilcox* in 1948 (UC 1,200,-778). Topotype. *A. Y.* and *J. E. Wilcox 22,* 1946. *Viola Aliceae* should be